

What Classes should my child take in Middle and High School?



Where Can My Child Get Help with Class Planning?

Everyone in every kind of work needs to be able to write and speak clearly, listen carefully, understand what is written and spoken, and use math effectively. A solid academic foundation is the key to your child's future.

► THE PARENT SERIES

You will be working with a school counselor or other educator to map out a program of study that will support your son's or daughter's career/life goals as part of the Student Education Occupation Plan (SEOP) process.

Ask your student to share his or her on-line career planning portfolio (www.portfolio.bridges.com).

Choices Explorer is an online tool that students, teachers, and parents can access to support the development of an effective Student Education Occupation Plan.

- 900+ career profiles
- 200+ career videos
- Real-life expert interviews
- Real-life activities
- Career finder quiz
- Careers by school subject
- Going to work advice and articles
- Student blog (web blog)



UCRN Utah Career Resource Network
1-800-733-7887
www.utahcareers.info

www.utahcte.org

Get Your Hands On Quality Career Information

A Solid Academic Foundation is the Key to Your Child's Future

When your child enters middle school, he or she may or may not be thinking about what to do after high school. You should help your child choose classes that will prepare him or her for any post-high school option available. The skills your child will learn by taking courses that prepare him or her for college will also act as preparation for the world of work. Everyone in every kind of work needs to be able to write and speak clearly, listen carefully, understand what is written and spoken, and use math effectively.

The courses your child takes starting as early as 8th grade can impact the choices available to him or her after high school. The decisions made about which classes to take can affect how soon your child will go to college, the type of college your child will attend, or even if he or she goes to college at all.

As a parent, your support will be crucial through this time to help your child make decisions that will lead to the most suitable college and career path.

middle school classes that your child will most likely take, and that will prepare him or her for high school include:

• **English, science, history or geography.** Together with math, these make up the basic academic classes a student will take every year.

• **Foreign language.** Since many colleges require their students to have taken at least two years of a foreign language, your child's middle school may require these classes, or he or she may be interested in learning a second language.

• **Algebra I and Geometry** (generally offered in the eighth and ninth grades). These math classes will give your child the skills he or she needs to succeed in high school, college and future career.

• **Computer classes.** Computer skills are necessary for student success in any field.

• **The Arts.** Most middle schools will offer classes in art, music, theatre, etc. It is also recognized that the arts contribute significantly to intellectual development.

WHAT CLASSES SHOULD MY CHILD TAKE IN HIGH SCHOOL?

The high school courses required for entrance to different colleges and postsecondary training institutions vary from school to school. In general, however, this is what students need to complete in high school to meet the minimum college entrance requirements:

- Four years of English. These might include writing, composition, speech, and literature classes.

• Three or four years of math. Algebra and geometry should be taken early so your child can then focus on higher level math classes that show colleges he or she is ready for advanced work. Additional math classes might include algebra II, trigonometry, or calculus.

- Two to three years of science. Science teaches students to think analytically and apply theories to real-life situations. Recommended science classes include one year of biology, one year of chemistry

- or physics, and one year of earth/space science, advanced biology, advanced chemistry, or physics.
- Two to three years of social studies. Recommended classes include one year of U.S. History, and classes in world history, geography, and economics.
- Two or more years of one foreign language. Solid foreign language study shows colleges your child is willing to stretch beyond the basics.

HOW DOES MY CHILD GET BEYOND THE BASICS?

In high school your child may consider taking one year of fine arts classes and should continue to build on computer skills. In addition, you and your child might consider the following:

Career and Technical Education(CTE) In high school, your child will have the opportunity to enroll in specialized Career and Technical Education courses related to his or her career and educational goals. Career and Technical Education includes nine areas of study:

- Agriculture
- Business
- Economics, Entrepreneurship & Financial Literacy
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Health Science & Technology
- Information Technology
- Marketing
- Technology & Engineering
- Trade & Technical

International Baccalaureate (IB). The IB program offers a pre-college course of study that leads to examinations. It is designed for highly motivated high school students. College credit may be awarded for successful completion of IB examinations.

WHAT MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES WILL PREPARE MY CHILD FOR HIGH SCHOOL?

Most middle schools require their students to take certain subjects. However, as a parent, you can encourage your child to select academically challenging classes, and to do well in his or her middle school classes. Some examples of